

# CROP REPORT



June 11, 2003  
PRESS RELEASE

1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735  
Portland, OR 97204

## June 1 Forecasts released for Winter wheat, Sweet cherries, Bartlett pears, and Hops

Oregon winter wheat production was forecast at 49.82 million bushels, as of June 1, 2003, up 71 percent from last year, according to the Oregon Agriculture Statistics Service. Acres for harvest, at 940,000, are up 32 percent from the previous year. Production is based on a forecasted yield of 53 bushels per harvested acre, unchanged from the May 1 forecast but up 12 bushels from 2002. Oregon conditions declined slightly during May, but are still better than last year. Rainfall during this past month will help fill wheat kernels, however stress is still visible in some dryland fields and more rain is needed.

Winter wheat production in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Idaho and Washington) is estimated at 219.6 million bushels, up 18 percent from the 2002 production. May began with heavy rains in the PNW. Warmer weather later in the month benefitted crop development. Idaho's winter wheat crop is forecast at 58.22 million bushels, up 7 percent from last year. The state wide average yield is forecast at 82 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from both the May 1 forecast and from 2002. Idaho experienced a rapid transition during late May from cool, wet weather to warm, dry conditions. Precipitation during late April and early May was above average for most areas, boosting yield expectations. Washington production is expected to total 111.6 million bushels, 8 percent above the previous crop. The expected yield is 62 bushels per acre, unchanged from the May 1 forecast but up 3 bushels from the final 2002 level. In Washington, warmer temperatures in late May accelerated growth.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.63 billion bushels, up 4 percent from the May 1 forecast and 42 percent above 2002. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.6 bushels per acre, up 1.7 bushels from the previous forecast. Grain area totals 36.4 million acres, unchanged from May 1. Hard Red production is up 7 percent from a month ago to 1.01 billion bushels. Soft Red is down 1 percent from last month, and now totals 368 million bushels. White production totals 253 million bushels, up 1 percent from last month.

Sweet cherry production in Oregon is forecasted to be 40,000 tons, up 29 percent from 2002's freeze reduced crop. A cool, wet spring delayed crop development. Production in the Pacific Coast States (Oregon, California and Washington) is forecast at 190,000 tons, up 10 percent from 2002, but 6 percent below 2001.

Oregon's Bartlett pear growers expect to harvest 70,000 tons, up 21 percent from 2002 but unchanged from 2001. The major producing areas in the State experienced a cool, wet spring which, is expected to delay harvest approximately 1 week. For the Pacific Coast States, production is forecast at 490,000 tons, virtually unchanged from last year but 10 percent below 2001.

Oregon hop growers plan to harvest 5,748 acres, up 3 percent from last year's harvested acreage. Area strung for harvest in 2003 for Washington, Oregon, and Idaho is forecast at 28,353 acres, 3 percent less than the 2002 crop of 29,309 acres, and 21 percent less than the 2001 crop of 35,911 acres. Washington accounts for 68 percent of the U.S. total acreage, Oregon 20 percent, with Idaho hop growers account for the remaining 12 percent. Both Oregon and Idaho increased their hop acreage over last year, 3 percent and 1 percent, respectively.

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<http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>